

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 2, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 167

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley, Hall, Jeffries, and**  
**Bonnie Lowenthal)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Huff)**

May 24, 2010

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 167—Relative to Students with Epilepsy Month.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 167, as amended, Ma. Students with Epilepsy Month.

This measure would recognize September 2010 and each September thereafter as Students with Epilepsy Month. This measure would also encourage the Epilepsy Foundations of *in* California to continue to join with the educational and health communities to conduct epilepsy education; *and* awareness; ~~and treatment.~~

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Epilepsy is a ~~chronic health~~ *neurological* condition  
2 that affects over 3 million Americans. More Americans are affected  
3 by epilepsy than by cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular  
4 dystrophy, and Parkinson's disease combined; and  
5 ~~WHEREAS, An estimated \$15.5 billion in annual medical costs~~  
6 ~~in the United States result from epilepsy; and~~  
7 WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects approximately 400,000  
8 Californians, 90,000 of whom are children under 18 years of age;  
9 and

1 WHEREAS, While epilepsy can begin at any age, it most  
2 commonly occurs in children and the elderly; and

3 WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects individuals with varying severity,  
4 ranging from a very limited effect on the individual to devastating  
5 impacts on all aspects of life. Epilepsy is truly disabling for those  
6 ~~living with uncontrolled seizures, due to frequent seizures,~~  
7 ~~impairments to cognition, memory, and functional skills, and a~~  
8 ~~highly compromised quality of life; and life; and~~

9 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy is critical  
10 ~~to both maximizing long-term prognosis and saving lives by~~  
11 ~~recognizing and appropriately responding to seizure emergencies;~~  
12 ~~prognosis; and~~

13 ~~WHEREAS, A seizure can take many forms and is caused by~~  
14 ~~a brief change in the normal functioning of the brain's electrical~~  
15 ~~system. While seizures system; and~~

16 *WHEREAS, Seizures* are most often associated with convulsions,  
17 in fact, a seizure can also be as subtle as strange sensations or  
18 perceptions, altered awareness, brief staring episodes, abnormal  
19 motions or postures, stiffness, or confused speech; and

20 ~~WHEREAS, Epilepsy is the second leading cause of death and~~  
21 ~~disability in children under 14 years of age, and up to 50,000 deaths~~  
22 ~~occur annually in the United States from prolonged seizures, known~~  
23 ~~as status epilepticus, and other seizure-related causes; and~~

24 WHEREAS, In children with epilepsy uncontrolled seizures  
25 damage the child's developing brain and can impact academic  
26 performance, memory, learning, and result in social-emotional  
27 challenges; and

28 ~~WHEREAS, Students with epilepsy have the ability to achieve~~  
29 ~~their educational goals with access to effective and appropriate~~  
30 ~~school and medical support services. Further, access to interagency~~  
31 ~~support systems strengthens the quality of life for children with~~  
32 ~~epilepsy; and~~

33 ~~WHEREAS, Recognizing Students with Epilepsy Month will~~  
34 ~~bring attention to this severe and often underreported and~~  
35 ~~underrecognized condition. Students with Epilepsy Month will~~  
36 ~~help address and dispel misperceptions associated with epilepsy~~  
37 ~~and~~

38 *WHEREAS, Recognizing Students with Epilepsy Month will*  
39 *positively demonstrate the ability of children to succeed in spite*  
40 *of their seizures; and*

1 WHEREAS, Students with Epilepsy Month will provide an  
2 opportunity for the school community to become better-educated  
3 ~~and empowered to best meet the needs of students with epilepsy;~~  
4 *aware of, and educated about, epilepsy;* now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes September  
7 2010 and each September thereafter as Students with Epilepsy  
8 Month; and be it further

9 *Resolved,* That the Epilepsy Foundations-~~of~~ *in* California are  
10 encouraged to continue to join with the educational and health  
11 communities to conduct epilepsy education; *and* awareness, ~~and~~  
12 ~~treatment;~~ and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
14 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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